

Inductive Bible Study Pt.5



Chapter Study

The chapter overview was like getting an aerial view of a piece of property. Now that we've finished 'surveying the property' from the air, let's head out on foot. During the 'overview' process we discovered the framework of the book. Now our goal is to focus in on the more detailed observations of the content of each chapter.

1. *PRAY.*

2. *KEEP THE CONTEXT IN MIND.*

— Every truth contained in a chapter must be considered in the context of the whole book. We must keep the overview in mind continually as we observe the details within the chapter.

3. *ASK THE '5W & H' QUESTIONS OF THE TEXT.*

— Always maintain a questioning mindset.

— Focus on the obvious and the obscure will become clearer.

— As questions of interpretation arise, record them on another sheet of paper. A complete observation should be completed before accurate interpretation can take place.

4. *MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES.*

— Walking through the text at a slower pace may reveal words and phrases that were not previously noticed.

— Remember to mark synonyms as well.

— Individual chapters may contain unique key words and phrases.

— Mark all references to God the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

— Continue to interrogate each word.

5. *LIST WHAT IS LEARNED ABOUT EACH KEY WORD.*

— On a separate piece of paper, list every fact given about a key word, subject, person, place or event in each chapter.

— Watch for topical lists as well.

ROMANS 10:13-15

13 ...for "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

6. *LOOK FOR CONTRASTS.*

— Terms of Contrast are used to **make an idea sharp and clear by highlighting the differences between elements.**

— Common terms of contrast in scripture: *but, but rather, however, in spite of, nevertheless, on the other hand, yet*

— Words of contrast are important to note because they indicate a change in direction. When a verse **BEGINS** with one of these words, always stop and ask the "5W and H" questions.

"What is the author's change of direction?" "Why is he changing direction?" "What is being contrasted?" "Why is it being contrasted?" "When is it being contrasted?"

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, **BUT** of power and love and discipline.

- If a verse begins with a contrast word like “but”, our attention should be drawn to re-read the preceding verse(s) to determine what the author is contrasting.

Example: **Gal. 5:19-23** lists two contrasting lifestyles. Paul writes that “*the deeds of the flesh are evident...*” and then proceeds to list those deeds. Then in **Gal. 5:22** we see the contrast word “**BUT**”: “*...But the fruit of the Spirit is...*” and a list of fruit that characterizes a life led by the Spirit.

- Note that not all contrasts are identified by specific contrast words like “but”, “yet”, etc. They may be more difficult to identify — for they are contrasting thoughts.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:5

5 ...for you are all sons of **light and sons of day**. We are not of **night nor of darkness**.”

- Take care to look for **both contrasting WORDS AND contrasting THOUGHTS**.
- Contrasts can be noted in the margin or in the text with an appropriate symbol.

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, ↔ **BUT** of power and love and discipline.”

7. LOOK FOR COMPARISONS (FIGURES OF SPEECH).

- The Bible often paints word pictures using comparison with things that are well known and understood, in order to give us insights into spiritual truths which may not be so well known or understood.
- The use of figures of speech like simile and metaphor, enlarge in picture form the meaning of a passage.
- Always read the passage for its literal sense unless there is some good reason not to.
- In some passages a literal interpretation makes absolutely no sense, suggesting that we interpret it as a figure of speech.

JOHN 6:35

35 Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me will not hunger...”

JOHN 10:9

9 “**I am the door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

JOHN 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

JOHN 15:5

5 “**I am the vine**, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

- When “figuring out the figurative”, “context is king”! For example, David declares in:

PSALM 63:7

In the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy...

The context of the entire Psalm leads to a clearer understanding of the picture of God’s protection for His children with the same watch care as a mother eagle for her young.

— A **FIGURE OF SPEECH** is often used **for emphasis or clarity** and is **intended to express literal truth**.

Simile

— A simile is a figure of speech or A **WORD PICTURE** that draws a comparison between two things.

“...AS nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs...”

— Similes are usually marked by use of the words “as” or “like”.

PSALM 42:1

AS the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.

1 PETER 2:2

LIKE newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

PROVERBS 25:28

LIKE a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.

— Figures of speech although representative, are **still intended to convey literal truth that is in keeping with the context**.

Metaphor

— A metaphor **shows a comparison between two things but WITHOUT using the words “as” or “like”**. It is an **implied comparison, a word applied to something it is not, to suggest a resemblance**.

TITUS 1:12

12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans ARE always liars, **evil beasts**, lazy gluttons.’

GENESIS 49:27

27 Benjamin IS a ravenous wolf...

MATTHEW 5:13-14

13 You ARE the salt of the earth...

14 You ARE the light of the world...

JOHN 15:1

I AM the vine, and My father IS the vinedresser...

JOHN 15:5

I AM the vine, you ARE the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.